



180 East Main St. Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 704-0078 www.abcwomenscenter.org

March 19, 2018

Testimony on
H.B. 5416 "An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers"
Before the Public Health Committee
March 20, 2018

Dear members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Molly Hurtado, and I serve as the Executive Director of ABC Women's Center in Middletown. I am writing today in opposition of H.B. 5416, "An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers." This bill is an unsubstantiated, prejudice and malicious attack on religious 501c3 Pregnancy Resource Centers within our state.

As Executive Director, I am chiefly responsible for ensuring my Center upholds the highest code of ethic and care in all of our departments including client services, medical services, marketing and advertising, to name a few. Since 1990, our mission has prevailed. ABC Women's Center exists to provide life affirming support to pregnant women in our state. We accomplish this through our pregnancy support services including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and options counseling with our CT licensed medical support staff. Should our clients choose to carry to term, we extend the opportunity for them to enroll in our Parenting Support Program, which includes parenting classes and material support for 2 years after baby is born. Women of Connecticut trust Pregnancy Resource Centers which is why 48% of women find our services as a result of positive referral of a friend.

H.B. 5416 is a vicious attempt by aggressive pro-abortion organization that have pushed this bill before you on unjust prejudice and a desire to suppress free speech. ABC Women's Center provides accurate information on pregnancy status, *all* pregnancy options (including abortion), and we support women regardless of their pregnancy decision. All of our medical literature is approved by our Medical Director Dr. Daniel W. O'Neill, MD of Day Kimball Medical Group in Putnam, MA. Our medical information is sited by sources approved by our national affiliations medical board. Some of our abortion information even comes from the Planned Parenthood website itself! Pregnancy Resource Centers have nothing to hide. Our Medical staff share approved, medically sound information with our clients.

In 2015 we had the privilege of having Dr. Prasad Srinivasan into our Center for a tour. In an article published the next day, here is how he described the importance of our work:
"Centers such as this are important to our communities because they provide quality care and resources to expectant mothers in need. When a woman finds out that she is expecting, it is a life changing event and immediate medical care is vital to the health of the mother and the growing baby, and there are many decisions that need to be made. ABC Women's Center is well-equipped with the educational, medical, and referral resources needed for early intervention and connecting their patients to quality medical care."



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Pregnancy Resource Centers are a vital and long standing charitable organization in Connecticut that has saved our state millions of dollars worth of services and material goods to women and families.

The need of resources for pregnant women is so great, our state could use more support agencies, not less. Why would we want to discredit places who have served women well for over 30 years when our state is already at a lack of resources?

Sincerely,

Molly Hurtado
Executive Director, ABC Women's Center